TITLE

APPARATUS FOR INPUTTING AND DETECTING A DISPLAY DATA CHANNEL IN MANUFACTURING A MONITOR

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. §119 from an application for *Apparatus For Inputting And Detecting A Display Data Channel In Manufacturing A Monitor* earlier filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office on the 30th day of March 1998 and there duly assigned Serial No. 1998/10975.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the transmission and detection of a display data channel during the manufacture of a visual monitor, and, more particularly, to an apparatus for enhancing manufacturing productivity while concomitantly reducing unit cost by automatically input and detecting a display data channel during the manufacture of monitors.

Description of Background Art

In general, before packaging and shipping, manufacturers occasionally subject video monitors for computers to an operability test by applying and examining the visual display of data during

transmission of the data via a display data channel (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as a DDC) to each of the monitors. The input of the DDC to each monitor is performed with either a scanner or a mouse, and a computer is used to detect the DDC on the monitor to which the scanner or the mouse is connected, and the monitor to be examined is connected.

Under current practice, a worker operates a scanner or a mouse in order to input the display data channel into the monitor being tested. Each monitor travelling along an assembly line is briefly stopped at a position accessible to a personal computer that serves as a test set. In order to input and detect the DDC, the worker either clicks the appropriate button of a mouse or scans the bar coded information from a label (*e.g.*, for example, a label bearing the serial number of the monitor) that is being dispensed for application to the rear of the newly manufactured monitor. When the worker clicks the mouse, or alternatively, scans the information from the label, the DDC for the monitor is applied to the personal computer of the test set. When the DDC has been normally input into the personal computer, the personal computer drives its own monitor to visually display a message indicating that the operation has been successively completed. If the DDC is not input into the personal computer for some reason, the personal computer drives its monitor to display an error message. I have noticed however, that in order to apply and detect the display data channel for each newly manufactured monitor, the worker must operate a mouse, or a scanner for each test of each newly manufactured monitor. Moreover, I have found that the worker must separately, visually identify the messages which are displayed on the screen of the monitor of test set personal computer, for each monitor that travels along the assembly line. Furthermore, since the worker must operate the mouse or the scanner while visually identifying each message displayed on the monitor of the

test set that corresponds to the input and detection of the DDC, a substantial number of man-hours is required during each shift in order to test each newly manufactured monitor.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved apparatus and process for applying and detecting data transmitted to a monitor via a display data channel.

It is another object to provide an improved apparatus and process for automatically applying and detecting data transmitted to a monitor via a display data channel, during the manufacture of the monitor.

It is still another object to provide an apparatus and process able to individually test newly manufactured video monitors while minimizing the number of operational steps required during the performance of each test.

It is yet another object to provide an apparatus and process able to individually test newly manufactured video monitors while reducing the amount of time required to perform each test.

It is still yet another object to provide an apparatus and process that simplifies the testing of each newly manufactured video monitor.

The present invention has been made to overcome the above described problem of the prior art. It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for input and detecting a display data channel in manufacturing a monitor capable of improving a productivity of monitors by automatically input and detecting a display data channel of a monitor in manufacturing the monitors, thereby reducing a manufacturing cost of the monitor.

These and other objects may be attained with apparatus and processes for applying and detecting a display data channel through which data for a monitor is transmitted to a computer during the manufacture of a monitor. Embodiments of the present invention contemplate an input device that applies the display data channel for the monitor into the computer; a driver that supplies the input device with predetermined electric signals; an interface that indicates whether the display data channel for the monitor has been applied to the computer, generates the same voltage signal as an initial signal, and switches the initial signal at a different time in accordance with the determination about the application of the display data channel; and a controller that regulates the driver by generating the predetermined electric signal, analyzes the output signal from the interface, and determines whether or not the result obtained by the application of the display data channel is correct.

The input device may includes a mouse, a scanner and a switch to select either the mouse or the scanner, while the controller may be implemented with a programmable logic controller. The interface may be constructed with a Zener diode connected with a pin coupled to the display data channel running between the computer and the monitor, a transistor having a control electrode coupled to an output terminal of the Zener diode and turned-on and turned-off in accordance with the presence of the display data channel, a relay including a relay coil magnetized when the transistor is turned-on and first and second relay switches turned-on when the transistor is turned-off, and a light emitting diode that emitting light when the first relay switch is turned-on so that the application of the display data channel can be identified. After the display data channel is applied to the computer and the interface outputs a high frequency signal, the controller is able to determine that

the display data channel is normally applied to the computer when the interface outputs the same signal as the initial signal at a first time, and after the interfacing section continues to output the high frequency signal for a predetermined time after the first time interval, the controller determines that the display data channel is abnormally inputted into the computer if the interface outputs the same signal as the initial signal at a second time interval. The first time interval has a range of approximately 750 milliseconds through approximately 1.5 seconds, and the second time interval has a range of approximately 3.5 seconds through approximately 4.5 seconds.

When the display data channel is abnormally applied to the computer, the controller sounds an alarm through a loud speaker. The driver may include a relay switch coupled in parallel to a contact point for applying the display data channel of the input device and a relay coil that is magnetized by the predetermined electric signal sufficiently to operate the relay switch. After a control and detection signal is supplied to the monitor, the controller magnetizes the relay coil and turns-on the relay switch at a predetermined time so that the display data channel is applied to the monitor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of an apparatus dedicated to the process of determining whether

a display data channel is inputted into a monitor in manufacturing monitors;

FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view of an apparatus that uses a scanner for reading a bar code of a label that is designed to be attached to the back side of each newly manufactured monitor;

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of apparatus for applying and detecting a display data channel applied to newly manufactured monitors in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a view showing the waveform of output signals obtained from the input of the display data channel to newly manufactured monitors;

FIG. 5 is a view showing the construction of a circuit that may be used to selectively connect a mouse or a scanner during the practice of the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is a schematic view of a conveyer system dedicated to transporting newly manufactured monitors during fabrication and testing.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning now to the drawings, FIG. 1 is a schematic view of an apparatus for inputting and detecting the DDC during the manufacture of video monitors. The input and detection of the DDC using scanner 6 and mouse 7 will be described in detail below. A worker operates scanner 6 or mouse 7 so as to input the display data channel on the newly manufactured monitor 2 that is being tested, and to detect the display data channel on that monitor. The DDC is applied to a monitor 2 by use of mouse 7 while monitor 2 rides upon pallet 60 that is being carried by conveyor belt 51; conveyor belt 51 is stopped at a position that enables personal computer 3 to apply and detect the DDC on the monitor. When monitor 2 is in place and the worker clicks a corresponding button of

mouse 7, the DDC for monitor 2 is received by personal computer 3 through an interface board 4. When the DDC has been normally received by personal computer 3, personal computer 3 generates a normal message, for example, a video signal corresponding to a variable visual video display on monitor 1 of the expression OK. When the DDC has been abnormally received by personal computer 3 or when interface board 4 or its cable is not properly connected to personal computer 3, personal computer 3 may generate a video signal that drives monitor 1 to visually display an error message, for example, the word ERROR or the expression NG, on its video screen.

When scanner 6 is used to apply the DDC to monitor 2, pallet 60 is stopped at a position that enables personal computer 3 to receive and detect the DDC for monitor 2. The worker uses scanner 6 to read a bar code from a label that will be attached to a back side of monitor 2. When the worker inputs information corresponding to monitor 2 into personal computer 3 by scanning the bar code from the label for monitor 2, the DDC for monitor 2 is applied to personal computer 3 through interface board 4. When the DDC has been normally received by personal computer 3, personal computer 3 generates a normal message, for example, a video signal corresponding to a variable visual video display on monitor 1 of the expression OK. When the DDC has been abnormally received by personal computer 3 or when interface board 4 or its cable is not properly connected to personal computer 3, personal computer 3 may generate a video signal that drives monitor 1 to visually display an error message, for example, the word ERROR or the expression NG, on its video screen.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a device that may be used with scanner 6 to read the bar code from a label to be attached to the back side of monitor 2. The worker holds scanner 6 with one hand

and positions scanner 6 to read the bar code from monitor label 13 which is carried by rollers 11 and 12. I have noticed that in order to apply and detect the display data channel to monitor 2 according to this practice, the worker must operates the mouse, or the scanner each time. Moreover, I have found that there is another disadvantage attributable to the fact that the worker must separately, visually identify the messages which are displayed on the screen of monitor 1 of personal computer 3, for each monitor 2 that travels along conveyor belt 51. Furthermore, since the worker is required to operate mouse 6 and scanner 7 while visually identifying each message displayed on monitor 1 corresponding to the input and detection of the DDC, a substantial quantity of time is required in order to test each monitor 2.

Hereinafter, apparatus and a process for applying and detecting the display data channel during the manufacture of monitors in the practice of an embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The like reference numerals are used for the like elements.

As shown in FIG. 3, the apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention contemplates a circuit with a mouse 7 or a spanner 6 for inputting a display data channel (hereinafter, referred to as DDC) of a monitor 2 into a personal computer 3 which is used for examining the DDC during the manufacture of monitors, a relay 20 for including switch contacts Rl and R2 which are in parallel connected with input contacts 10a and 10b of the mouse 7 or input contacts IOA and IOB of the scanner 6 and a coil RC which is magnetized by a predetermined electric signal, for example an electric signal outputted from a programming logic controller 100 as described below, and then connects the switch contact Rl to the switch contact R2 so that an electric current is conducted, an

interfacing section 200 for indicating that the DDC of the monitor 2 is inputted into the computer 3 and for outputting an initial signal and the same signal which is switched at a different time as that of generating the initial signal according to a result of inputting the DDC, and the programming logic controller 100 (hereinafter, referred to as PLC) for generating a signal magnetizing the coil RC forming the relay 20 so as to electrically connect the switch contact Rl to the switch contact R2, for enabling the DDC of the monitor 2 to be inputted into the personal computer 3, and for determining whether the inputting of the DDC is normal or abnormal by using a difference of voltage signals from the interfacing section 200.

As shown in FIG. 3, the interfacing section 200 according to the present invention includes a zener diode 201 which is connected with pins of ports 30 and 32 to connect the personal computer 3 to the monitor 2, a transistor 202 which has a base terminal connected to an output terminal of the zener diode 201 and which is turned-on or turned-off based on the presence of the DDC, a relay 210 for including a relay coil 211 magnetized when the transistor 202 is turned-on and a first and second relay switch 213 and 215 which are turned-on when the relay coil 211 is not magnetized, a light emitting diode 220 for emitting light when an electric current is applied to the first switch, i.e. when the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2, so that it is identified to input the DDC into the monitor 2, and resistors RI, R2, and R3 for regulating current. When the second switch is turned-on, voltage (-24V) for driving the PLC 100 is applied to the PLC 100.

With respect to FIG- 3, a reference numeral 50 indicates a signal supplying device for supplying signals to examine the monitor 2.

Hereinafter, the operation of the apparatus to input and detect the DDC in manufacturing the

monitors according to the present invention. will be described in detail with reference to FIGs. 3 through 6. When monitor 2 is placed at a position to be examined and adjusted in the facility for producing the monitor 2, the signal supplying device 50 supplies signals for examining and adjusting the monitor 2, for example horizontal synchronization signal and vertical synchronization signal, through a signal cable 55, a microprocessor cable 54, and the like to the monitor 2.

That is, when examining and adjusting the monitor 2. a worker places a pallet 60 on a conveyer belt 51 and positions the monitor 2 to he examined on the pallet 51. When operating the conveyer belt 51, then, the pallet 60 having the monitor 2 thereon is carried by the conveyer belt 51. The pallet 60 is stopped at a position that the signal supplying device 50 is disposed by a stopper 57 installed at the center portion of the conveyer belt 51.

The microprocessor cable 54 and the signal cable 55 are connected to an assembly of a printed circuit board in the monitor 2 at one ends thereof and is in automatic and manual contact with connecting devices such as a micro processor jack 58 and a signal jack 59 of the signal supplying device 50 which are fixed to a frame of the conveyer belt 51 at the other ends thereof.

As described above, when the micro processor cable 54 and the signal cable 55 are connected to the connecting devices fixed to the frame of the conveyer belt 51, signals for examining and detecting the monitor 2, for examples the horizontal synchronization signal and the vertical synchronization signal, are supplied through the combination cable 56 from the signal supplying device 50 to the assembly of the printed circuit board 2b.

The signals for examining and detecting the monitor 2 are processed in the assembly 2b of the printed circuit board and indicated on the monitor 2 so that the worker can identify the result of

examining and detecting the monitor 2 to adjust the DOC of the monitor 2.

After the signal supplying device 50 supplies the signals for adjusting and examining the monitor 2 for the monitor 2, the PLC 100 makes the coil RC of the relay 20 to be magnetized and to turn-on the contacts RI and R2. That is, the PLC 100 turns on the relay 20 automatically after the signal supplying device 50 supplies the signals for adjusting and examining the monitor 2 for the monitor 2. Even though the worker do not push a switch button of the mouse 7 or the scanner 6, the PLC 100 can input the DDC into the monitor 2.

As described above, the contacts R1 and R2 of the relay 20 are electrically connected with each other to make the DDC to be inputted into the monitor 2 as the contacts RI and R2 of the relay 20 are in parallel connected with the start contacts 10a and 10b of the mouse 7 or the start contacts 10A and 10B of the scanner 6.

Since the input of the DDC can be accomplished by operating the mouse 7 or the scanner 6, the contacts Rl and R2 are preferably connected to a selecting switch 25 in order to select one of the mouse 7 and the scanner 6. That is, when a contact C of the selecting switch 25 is electrically connected to a contact Cl of the selecting switch 25, the contacts Rl and R2 of the relay 20 function as a click contact of the mouse 7. On the other hand, when the contact C of the selecting switch 25 is electrically connected to a contact C2 of the selecting switch 25, the contacts RI and R2 of the relay 20 function as a reading contact of the scanner 6.

When the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2 in such a manner as described above, a low signal is applied to the zener diode 201 of the interfacing section 200 connected to the DDC pin of the cable 5 to turn-on the transistor 202- In the other words, when the contacts RI and R2 of the relay

20 are electrically connected to each other so that the DDC *is* inputted into the monitor 2, the low signal (about 1,5 volt) is applied to the interfacing section 200 to turn-off the transistor 202, whereas when the contacts Rl and R2 of the relay 20 is electrically released from each other so that the DDC is not inputted into the monitor 2, a high signal (about 5 volt) is applied to the interfacing section 200 to turn-on the transistor 202.

If the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2 and the transistor 202 is turned-off, the first and second switch contacts 213 and 21S are held turned-on as the relay coil 211 can be magnetized. This is the reason that the contact switches 213 and 215 of the relay 210 of the interfacing section 200 are a relay in a B contacting way which is held turned-on when the relay coil 211 is not magnetized and is turned-of when the relay coil 211 is magnetized.

If the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2, which in turn makes the transistor 202 to be turned-off, therefore, the light emitting diode 220 is turned on as a closed circuit is formed in the interfacing section 200, in which the electric current is discharged at an earth by way of the light emitting diode 220 and the first contact switch 213. If the DDC is not inputted into the monitor 2 and the transistor 202 is turnedoff, the light emitting diode 220 is turned off as the electric current is discharged at the earth by way of the coil of the relay 210 in the interfacing section 200 and the first contact switch 213 of the relay 210 is turned off. Accordingly, the worker identified the light emitting diode 220 to determine whether or not the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2.

When the contacts R1 and R2 of the relay 20 are turned-on according to the control of the PLC 100 and the DDC is normally inputted into the monitor 2, the PLC 100 analyzes the signal outputted from the interfacing section 200 *so* as to determine whether or not the DDC is normally

inputted into the monitor 2.

As shown in FIG. 4, switching times when the input of the DDC is normal are different from that when the input of the DDC is abnormal after the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2. When the input of the DDC is normal, the switching times are in a range of approximately 750 milliseconds to approximately 1.2 seconds, while when the input of the DDC is abnormal, the switching times are in a range of approximately 3.5 seconds to approximately 4.5 seconds.

Accordingly, the signal outputted from the interfacing section 200 is identified at a time, for example 1.5 sec, that the switching times do not overlapped after the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2. If a high frequency signal is not outputted from the outputted signals and the same signal as that before the DDC is inputted into the monitor 2 is outputted, it is determined that the input of the DDC is normal, On the other hand, if the high frequency signal is outputted from the interfacing section 200, it is determined that the input of the DDC is abnormal.

Embodiments of the present invention permit sequences of testing to be programmed into PLC controller100. PLC controller 100 is able to broadcast an alarm via loudspeaker 150 whenever it determines that an input of the DDC is abnormal.

According to the principles of the present invention, the input and examination of the DDC in manufacturing the monitors are automatically carried out so that it is unnecessary that the input and examination of the DDC are operated by the mouse 7 and the scanner 6 and the monitor is identified by the worker after carrying out the input and examination of the DDC. As described in the foregoing paragraphs, the apparatus to input and detect the DDC in manufacturing the monitors according to the present invention is capable of improving a productivity of monitors by

automatically inputting and detecting a display data channel of a monitor in manufacturing the monitors, thereby reducing a manufacturing cost of the monitor. The difference between the present invention and the conventional art and the advantages of the present invention will be apparent with reference to a table below.

<Table 1>

	conventional art		present invention	
	input of DDC	detecting of DDC	input of DDC	detecting of DDC
How to operate	manual operation by using a scanner or mouse		automatic operation by using a PLC	
identification of the operation	worker identifies the operation with eyes		worker identifies the operation with LED	
when errors are generated	Worker identifies messages of a monitor with eyes during the operation (impossible immediate response)		Alert by means of an alarm (possible immediate response)	
times for operation	about 5 sec	about 2 sec	0	

While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a particular embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail may be effected therein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. For example, although these principles have been illustrated for the manufacture of cathode ray type monitors, the present invention may be practiced during the test of any type of monitor, such as, by way of example, a flat panel display or a liquid crystal display.